



JC14 Rec'd PCT/PTO 06 MAY 2002

U.S. PATENT APPLICATION  
DOCKET NO. 20366.US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Niemi

SERIAL NO.: 09/980,515

I.A. FILED: 05/05/2000

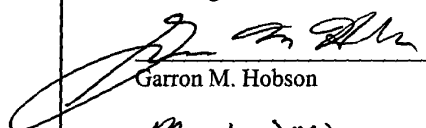
I.A. PCT NO.: PCT/FI00/00400

FOR: METHOD AND APPARATUS  
FOR MONITORING AND  
ANALYZING THE SURFACE  
OF FLOATED MATERIAL

DOCKET NO.: 20366.US

CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

I hereby certify that this  
correspondence is being deposited  
with the United States Postal Service  
as First Class Mail, postage prepaid,  
under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8 on the date  
indicated below and is addressed to  
Assistant Commissioner of Patents,  
Washington, D.C. 20231.

  
Garron M. Hobson

May 1, 2002  
Date of Deposit

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please find, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(1), the enclosed Form PTO-1449 which contains  
a list of all patents, publications, or other items that have come to the attention of one or more of the  
individuals designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c). Applicant respectfully submits that this Information  
Disclosure Statement is filed pursuant to:

  X   37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (b)(1) or (3), within three months of the filing date of the  
application, or before a first office action on the merits, whichever occurs last;

       37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (c), after a first office action on the merits, but before a Final Office

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Action or a Notice of Allowance, whichever occurs first, and is accompanied by either 1) a statement in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), or 2) the fee set forth in § 1.17(p); or

\_\_\_\_\_ 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (d), after a Final Office Action or Notice of Allowance, whichever occurs first, but on or before payment of the issue fee, and is accompanied by both 1) a statement in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), and 2) the fee set forth in § 1.17(p).

While no representation is made that any of these references may be "prior art" within the meaning of that term in accordance with 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 or 103, the enclosed list of references is disclosed so as to comply with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56.

Moreover, while no representation is made that a specific search of office files or patent office records has been conducted or that no better art exists, the undersigned attorney of record believes that the references listed, together with any other references which may have been previously submitted or listed, are the closest to the claimed invention (taken in its entirety) of which the undersigned is presently aware, and no art which is closer to the claimed invention (taken in its entirety) has been knowingly withheld.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, a copy of each listed reference (or relevant portion thereof) which was not previously submitted to, or cited by, the Patent Office is also enclosed.

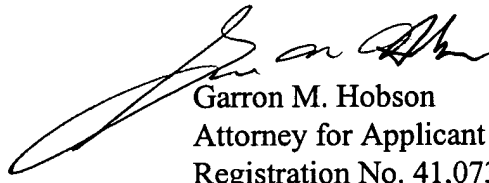
For all listed references that are not either in the English language, or accompanied by a translation into English, a concise explanation of relevance as required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) is enclosed attached to each.

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Page 3

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0100.

DATED this 1 day of may, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,

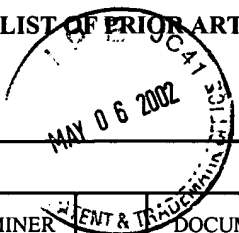


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PTO-1449		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY. DOCKET NO. 20366.US		SERIAL NO. 09/980,515	
<b>LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT</b> 				APPLICANT Niemi			
				FILING DATE I.A. filed 5/5/200		GROUP	
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
EXAMINER INITIALS	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
AA	4,831,641	5-16-89	Niemi				
AB	5,024,334	6-18-91	Misra et al.				
AC	5,038,258	8-6-91	Koch et al.				
AD	5,379,103	1-3-95	Zigler				
AE	5,396,260	3-7-95	Adel et al.				
AF	5,555,984	9-17-96	Sommer, Jr. et al.				
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO	
AG	GB 2 084 723A	4-15-82	UK				
AH	WO 97/43027	11-20-97	PCT				
AI	WO 97/45203	12-4-97	PCT				
AK	WO 81/02466	9-3-81	PCT				
<b>OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</b>							
AL	"The Development of a Color Sensor System to Measure Mineral Compositions"; Oestreich, et al.; Minerals Engineering, Vol 8, Nos.1/2 pp. 31-39, 1995; Copyright 1994, Elsevier Science Ltd.						
AM	"A sensor for assessing the quality of the mineral flotation process"; Guarini et al.; Industrial Electronics, 1994. Symposium Proceedings, ISIE '94, 1994 IEEE International Symposium; pp 386-391						
AN	"Expert system for supervision of mineral flotation cells using artificial vision", Cipriano et al.; Industrial Electronics, 1997. ISIE '97, Proceedings of the IEEE International Symposium, pp 149-153 vol. 1						
AO	"The classification of froth structures in a copper flotation plant by means of a neural net", Moolman et al. International Journal of Mineral Processing, 43 (1995) 193-208						
AP	"Mass Transport in Flotation Froths", Moys; Mineral Processing and Extractive Metallurgy Review, 1989, Vol. 5, Mass Transport in Flotation Froths; pp 203-228						
AQ	"Effect of Froth Structure and Mobility on Plant Performance", Cutting; Mineral Processing and Extractive Metallurgy Review, Vol. 5; pp. 169-201						
AR	"On characterization of pulp froth in cells of flotation plant", Niemi et al.; International Journal of Mineral Processing, 51 (1997) 51-65						
<b>EXAMINER</b>				<b>DATE CONSIDERED</b>			
<b>*EXAMINER:</b> Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							

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